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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 53

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the public safety and health risks associated with the gasoline additive, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

WHEREAS, in order to provide Tennesseans with clean water, clean air and an environment free of toxic or otherwise harmful agents for present and future generations, the general assembly recognizes the necessity of removing methyl tertiarybutyl ether (MTBE) from gasoline; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the various public safety and health risks associated with methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and especially the threat that the continued use of MTBE in gasoline poses to Tennessee's groundwater supply and consequently the state's drinking water supply.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in conducting such study, the special joint committee shall review and evaluate impact studies relative to the maintenance and improvement of emissions and air quality benefits achieved by the use of reformulated gasoline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall also explore the feasibility and determine the fiscal impact of expending excess funds in the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Fund to effectuate the removal of MTBE from gasoline and the introduction of reformulated gasoline into Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly no later than February 1, 2002, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.